

FROM THE EDITORS

IN THIS ISSUE WE PRESENT an archaeological report on the famous site of Vinapu, by Helene Martisson-Wallin, of the Kon-Tiki Museum. Vinapu's major *ahu*, Vinapu I and Vinapu II, are well known, and the sea wall at Vinapu I is often compared (erroneously) to Inka stonework. The statues at both of these sites are still lying in rubble, with one exception: a red scoria (headless) figure that was placed upright by William Mulloy during the archaeological work done in 1965. It stands in front of Vinapu II, which also has an embankment that encircles the ceremonial area, a typical feature of shrines elsewhere in Polynesia. Martinsson-Wallin's excavations revealed many interesting features discovered during fieldwork, including root molds of giant palms. Testing also resulted in some postulated settlement dates.

"NOTHING BUT STONES? A Review of the Extent and Technical Efforts of Prehistoric Stone Mulching on Rapa Nui" by Hans-Rudolf Bork, Andreas Mieth, and Bernd Tschochner describes and evaluates at the scope of lithic mulching on the island. The postulated man-hours and efforts expended to make the land more fertile after the cutting down of the palm forests is astonishing.

WE ARE PLEASED TO INCLUDE TWO thought-provoking papers by J. Douglas Porteous, University of Victoria, B.C. Doug's papers are "Paradoxical Hyperbole: Imagining Rapa Nui's Remoteness and Mystery" and "Rapa Nui: A Hyperbolic Iconography".

GRANT MCCALL, REACTING to the recent spate of deaths of elderly Rapanui who were "culture bearers", asks "Where have all the *koro* gone?" Indeed, it is sad to lose old friends, and we wish that oral histories could have been done in their lifetimes. A tip to budding anthropologists: it is important to record the life stories of the "old timers" while there is still time.

TWO OTHER ANTHROPOLOGICAL PAPERS are presented in this issue. One is by Riet Delsing (University of California, Santa Cruz) who contributes an essay on the role that colonialism played on the island: "Colonialism and Resistance in Rapa Nui". Compared to the archaeological component, the colonial period on Easter Island is less well studied but it is a key part of the island's history. And, a budding anthropologist from Norway, Olaug Irene Røsvik Andreassen, relates her experiences working as an anthropologist on Rapa Nui: "Coming of Age on Rapa Nui". Olaug, a student of Grant McCall's, provides a glimpse of the problems involved in conducting research in a foreign land and in a foreign language.

IN A PAPER COMPARING the sea life found in the waters around Easter Island to images of fishes and sea mammals that are carved on the island's rocks, Georgia Lee describes and illustrates some unusual petroglyphs, several of which are previously unpublished. Dr Jack Randall of the Bishop Mu-

seum provided assistance with the identification of the fishes. "Easter Island's Sea Creatures" describes some of the island's rock art motifs that deal with denizens of the deep, from 'generic fish' to explicit motifs that are clearly identifiable as to species.

RONGORONGO (specifically, the carvings on the "Santiago staff" now in the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in Santiago, Chile) is the subject of a short paper by Jacques Guy, with a response by Steven Roger Fischer. The Santiago Staff is a wondrous artifact to behold; a replica is on display in the museum but the priceless original is kept in a vault. Readers not familiar with *rongorongo* may wish to read Davis-Drake as background (*RNJ* 1988, Vol. 2(3):5-8; 1988-89, Vol. 2(4); 1989-90, Vol. 3(4); and 1990 (Vol. 4(1)).

OUR "LOOK BACK" FEATURE is the report by Alphonse Pinart, 1877. Pinart, born in France in 1852, was an anthropologist, ethnologist and linguist and was only nineteen when he embarked upon his adventures. He explored the Bering Sea, the Aleutians, Alaska, Easter Island, Haiti, and the islands of the Antilles. He studied petroglyphs in Puerto Rico and visited Panama, Central America, and Colombia, and made several official missions of exploration to Canada. He also conducted research in California and Arizona. When Pinart reached Easter Island, he was twenty-five years old and already was an astute observer. His descriptions are quite good and often they have a poetic aspect. Once again we are indebted to Ann M. Altman for her excellent translation from the French.

PINART'S PAPER IS FOLLOWED by a letter sent in 1876 from a Thomas Croft to Pinart, attributing the island's statues to some "antediluvian race". Croft's theories about Easter Island fall into the vast category known as "catastrophe theory" to explain the unknown; unfortunately, some of these ideas are still current amongst the rationally-challenged. Our thanks to San Francisco-based Yoram Meroz for sending Croft's letter, excavated from the Bancroft Library at Berkeley.

THE PAPER PRESENTED IN OUR last issue, by H-R Bork and A. Mieth and concerning the *Jubaea* palms and their postulated density on Easter Island (*RNJ* 17(2):119) has elicited some interesting comments as well as a response (see *Letters to the Editors*, page 69).

AS FOR REVIEWS, Mike Carson and Dave Tuggle contribute a review of *50 Years in the Field: Essays in Honour and Celebration of Richard Shutler Jr's Archaeological Career*; Shawn McLaughlin reviews two books, *Easter Island: Scientific Exploration into the World's Environmental Problems in Microcosm*, edited by John Loret & John T. Tanacredi; and David Stanley's new *Moon Handbooks Tahiti, Including the Cook Islands* (one chapter concerns Rapa Nui). We also have had inquiries about a book that normally would not come un-

der our scrutiny: *1421. The Year China Discovered America*, by Gavin Menzies. While this subject seems far from Rapa Nui, Menzies manages to drag Easter Island into his scenario of past sailing feats by the Chinese. We were fortunate that our correspondent from the Netherlands, Herbert von Saher, has a keen interest in ancient maps and sailing exploits, and agreed to review the Menzies book. While *1421* is interesting, it occasionally falls into sensational speculation, similar to the books of the late Barry Fell who was convinced that he found traces of Sumerians, Phoenicians, Egyptians, etc., in the New World, and who had a huge following. Our interest in Menzies' book – and what von Saher discusses in depth – are some very early maps indicating ship voyages that took place long before those of the established discoverers such as Magellan and Columbus. One map, dating from 1507, shows the Bering Strait and parts of western Alaska. Who made these maps?

IN THIS ISSUE WE announce the winners of the EIF scholarship awards, which are presented to Rapanui students each year. This year, thanks to the generosity of the Wiegand Memorial Foundation, we were able to offer two: the Wiegand Memorial Scholarship is for four years of study. The Easter Island Foundation's Nicholas Haoa Sr. Memorial Scholarship is for one year. Your tax-deductible donations make the scholarships possible (see page 79 for more on the awards.)

THE VI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on Easter Island and the Pacific is coming up soon. Abstracts and reservations are coming in, so be sure to complete your registration forms and get those abstracts in while there is still time. Deadline for abstracts is 1 May, 2004. The final date for pre-payment is 1 July 2004; after that, prices go up. Turn to pages 79-80 for updates on the conference. Our website has updated news: www.islandheritage.org

FLENLEY RECEIVES AWARD! Cambridge University has awarded the rare honor of Doctor of Science to John Flenley for his pioneering world-class research on fossilized pollen grains from Easter Island. Professor Flenley, Massey University, New Zealand, is a graduate of Cambridge and the Australian National University. Congratulations, John!

COMING EVENTS: Our Fall issue of *Rapa Nui Journal*, Vol. 18 (2), will present a full report on the Belgian Archaeological Mission to Easter Island, by Nicolas Cauwe and Dirk Huyge, Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels. Their report will cover recent excavations at Ahu o Rongo (Hanga Roa) and Ahu o Tuki (Ko te Aheru, south coast). At Ahu o Rongo, Cauwe and Huyge uncovered another *ahu* built partly over an earlier one. This find belongs to the 'classical' period of *ahu* construction and is tentatively dated to AD 15th to 16th centuries. It originally bore several statues in Rano Raraku tuff. The second site, Ahu o Tuki, was discovered by chance by Catherine and Michel Orliac (CNRS, France); it is located on the very edge of a 30-meter-high cliff, and is threatened by gully erosion. Cauwe and Huyge's excavations revealed a small, previously unknown *ahu*, probably dating from the late 13th or 14th century. Don't miss this important report!

OBITUARIES

WE ARE SAD TO REPORT THAT EMILY ROSS MULLOY passed away on 12 November 2003, on the island of Molokai. Over the years, and from the very beginnings of the *Rapa Nui Journal*, Emily contributed papers to RNJ, many of them relating her memories of Rapa Nui from the time when she was on the island with her husband, William Mulloy. Emily's enthusiasm, warm personal manner, and great sense of humor are evident in her writing.



Bill and Emily Mulloy on Easter Island in 1972
(photo courtesy of Grant McCall).

Emily was involved with the Easter Island Foundation from its inception, helping to create the William Mulloy Library on Easter Island. Emily also contributed a selected bibliography and a chronology for her late husband, Bill (Vol. 2:1, 1988).

Emily's ashes will be taken to Rapa Nui in August 2004 to be buried at Tahai, at Bill's memorial. A memorial fund to honor Emily, associated with the Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui, is planned. Contact brigid@aloha.net for information.

ROBERT LANGDON, author of *The Lost Caravel* (1975), *The Lost Caravel Re-explored* (1988), and (with Darrel Tryon) *The Language of Easter Island: Its Development and Eastern Polynesian Relationships* (1983), has died in Australia. Langdon, a promoter of diffusionism, participated in some vigorous exchanges in *Rapa Nui Journal* with scholars Paul Bahn and John Flenley (Vol. 8(1):11-12, 1994; Vol. 9(1):19-20 1995), and Erika Hagelberg (Vol. 9(1):16-19, 1995). He also contributed papers to *RNJ*: Vol. 9(1):81-82 (1995); Vol. 9 (4):109-117 (1995); and Vol. 11(1):21-23 (1997).